



CAPE
Canadian Association
of Physicians
for the Environment

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des Médecins
pour l'Environnement
ACME



FrackLNG: Experimenting with our health— What could possibly go wrong?



vs.



Six Things to Know about FrackLNG in BC

- 1. Most Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in proposed BC exports will be produced via hydraulic fracturing (AKA Fracking) a type of shale and tight gas development or unconventional natural gas development.¹**
Fracking+LNG=FrackLNG
- 2. Research on the health impacts of fracking is only just starting to come out, with 84% of public health studies finding evidence of hazard, risk or adverse outcomes.²**
Early studies have found concerns with regards to the hormone disrupting properties of fracking fluids³; their potential for reproductive and developmental toxicity;⁴ and increased asthma rates,⁵ congenital heart disease,⁶ nasal, sinus, migraine and fatigue symptoms⁷ with greater proximity to natural gas development. **There are large gaps in the knowledge base and long-term health impacts remain unknown.⁸**
- 3. Fracking puts water and air quality at risk: 69% of water quality studies contain findings that indicate potential, positive association, or actual incidence of water contamination²- 87% of air quality studies contain findings that indicate elevated air pollutant emissions and/or atmospheric concentrations.²**
- 4. The World Health Organization calls climate change the biggest health threat of our time.¹³** The 2015 Lancet Commission on Climate-Health¹⁴ points out that current emissions trajectories have us headed for over 4C above preindustrial levels by 2100, a level of warming it says may be incompatible with global organized society.¹⁴
- 5. Just a single LNG project, Pacific Northwest LNG, will make it essentially impossible for BC to meet its 2050 climate targets:** Pacific NW LNG will produce an estimated 10 Mt CO₂e/year by 2050. BC's 2050 target for the entire economy is 13 Mt CO₂e/yr.¹⁷
- 6. Communities close to fracking may benefit from an injection of jobs and dollars locally during a boom,¹⁸ but also identify concerns related to closeness of development to villages & water sources,¹⁹ traffic, noise, impacts on wildlife and traditional territory, & inadequate health services for the changes in population.^{19, 20, 21} Large numbers of young, male workers may increase violence against Indigenous women and girls in Northeastern BC.²²**

Six Things to Do about FrackLNG in BC

- 1. Point out whenever you can, that LNG and fracking are two sides of the same coin:** In conversations with family, in letter to the editor, in conversations with your MP and political candidates.
- 2. Organize your community to action.** The Family Practice Colleges of Newfoundland and Labrador⁹ and New Brunswick¹⁰ both called for a fracking moratorium in those provinces in response to concerns about risks to health.
In BC, over 180 physicians and other health professionals recently signed a letter asking that no new projects go ahead until the health risks are understood, communicated to communities, and mitigated.¹¹
- 3. Ask for an approach based on the “Precautionary Principle.”** It states: “in the case of serious or irreversible threats to the health of humans or the ecosystem, acknowledged scientific uncertainty should not be used as a reason to postpone preventive measures.”¹²
- 4. Point out that climate change is a major human health threat.**
Contribute to fossil fuel divestment efforts at your institution and Alma Mater. The World Medical Association is calling for health organizations to divest from fossil fuels.¹⁵ The Canadian Medical Association has already divested.¹⁶
- 5. Advocate for a math-based approach to action for a healthy climate:** We need to add up the cumulative emissions of various projects and compare them to our emissions targets and carbon budget. If they don't add up—we need to re-consider the projects.
- 6. Support calls by Aboriginal communities** for study and evidence-based action to reduce cumulative impacts of resource extraction in their communities, and for their free, prior and informed consent with regards to development on their traditional territories.

**We don't like it when kids make giant experimental messes—is it fair to leave them ours?
Let's put a moratorium on further fracking permits while we assess the risks.
Join CAPE in working for good health for our next 5 generations.**

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